

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1426

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

FAA BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR COHEN AND EXIMBANK FOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EG

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - EGYPTAIR REEQUIPMENT

REF: BEIRUT 11200; BEIRUT A-188, SEPT 16, 1974; CAIRO 5150;
CAIRO 5064

1. INFORMED SOURCES BEIRUT INDICATE EGYPTAIR FIRST-STAGE FLEET PLANNING HAS NOW SHIFTED FROM ACQUISITION FOUR USED SHORT/MEDIUM RANGE TWINJETS AND FOUR USED MEDIUM RANGE TRIJETS TO EARLY ORDERS SIX NEW TWINJETS IN CATEGORY OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS DC-9 SERIES 50 OR BOEING ADVANCED 737-266 TO REPLACE ANTONOV AN-24B'S AND HAWKER SIDDELEY COMET 4C'S ON DOMESTIC AND LOWER-DENSITY REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL ROUTES. VALUE OF ORDER WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$50 MILLION INCLUDING SPARES.

2. SECOND-STAGE FLEET PLANNING APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO
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CALL FOR ORDER SPRING 1975 THREE NEW MEDIUM-RANGE

WIDEBODIED AIRCRAFT (L-1011/DC-10/747 SP) VALUED AT
\$90-100 MILLION FOR DELIVERY EARLY 1977.

3. STATUS EGYPTAIR CHAIRMAN GENERAL ERFAN SEIF EL-NASR
UNCERTAIN AS BEIRUT AEROSPACE SOURCE INDICATE HE SUB-
MITTED RESIGNATION RECENTLY DUE POLICY DIFFERENCES WITH
MOHAMED EL SESSY, DEPUTY MINISTER TOURISM AND CIVIL
AVIATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA'S DON PETERSON
(WHO HANDLES EGYPTAIR) STATES RESIGNATION NOT YET ACCEPTED.
INDICATIONS ALSO EXIST THAT AVOAEEXPORT MAY NOW BE WILLING TO MAKE
REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO TU-154 FLEET CORRECTING
FUEL-TRANSFER SYSTEM, FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM, AND CENTER-
OF-GRAVITY LOAD INADEQUACIES, BUT EL-NASR REPORTEDLY
HAS BEEN DEAD-SET AGAINST RETURNING TU-154'S TO FLIGHT
STATUS, EVEN WITH MODIFICATIONS, DUE POOR OPERATING ECONOMICS
AND EXCESSIVE FUEL CONSUMPTION, HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE
SOME UAR OPINION TU-154'S SHOULD BE GIVEN SECOND CHANCE,
ASSUMING AVIAEXPORT WILL COVER MODIFICATION EXPENSES.
GODLEY

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